

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A process for detecting a state of a catalyst system installed in an exhaust gas channel of an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle, through which catalyst system exhaust gas from the internal combustion engine flows so that the exhaust gas can be purified, the process including the steps of: detecting at least one operating parameter of the catalyst system over a predetermined time period, determining a total energy output of the internal combustion engine within the predetermined time period, and calculating a characteristic value (k) based on a ratio of the at least one operating parameter to the total energy output.